UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/343
23 April 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by His Excellency Cde. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, on the successful deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Machivenyika Tobias MAPURANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-11195 (E) 230498

/...

ANNEX

Statement by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the occasion of the deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic

On behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Government and people of Zimbabwe and on my own behalf, I wish to commend the United Nations Security Council for the important decision it has taken to deploy a 1,350-personnel United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) to replace the outgoing Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB). We welcome the fact that the United Nations has assumed its rightful role under the Charter of the United Nations. I thank all those Member States of the United Nations who have made MINURCA possible by contributing to it the requisite human, material, financial and logistical support.

In welcoming MINURCA, I wish to take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation to the OAU member States, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo, for the indispensable role they played in MISAB. The fact that relative peace and tranquillity is prevailing in the Central African Republic is an eloquent testimony of the critical role that MISAB played in arresting the escalation of conflict and averting the risk of war in that country. MISAB certainly is yet another shining example of Africans seeking to solve African problems through subregional and regional efforts at conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The task of restoring peace in the Central African Republic would have been nigh impossible without the generous financial, material and logistical support provided by the French Government to enable MISAB to fulfil its objectives. We commend the Government and people of France for this and for their continued support to and involvement in the United Nations mission.

MINURCA certainly has a pivotal role to play in maintaining peace and stability in the Central African Republic and thereby create conditions conducive to the holding of elections in September 1998. I wish to note, in this context, that President Ange-Félix Patasse has requested the United Nations Security Council, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, that the United Nations Force be maintained in that country until presidential elections are held next year. It is my hope that the Security Council will give sympathetic consideration to this request.

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/99
S/1998/344
23 April 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 46 and 113 of the preliminary list*
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on 20 April 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 46 and 113 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Movses ABELIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

98-11232 (E) 230498 230498

/...

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 20 April 1998 by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Recently, the leadership of Azerbaijan has launched a new campaign of lies and slander against Armenia and its people.

At one moment Azerbaijan disseminates various false accusations, at another it puts forward absurd claims to the territory of almost the whole of our country, at yet others, as if in a mockery of history and common sense, it claims the Azerbaijani people to be a victim of genocide.

The aim of these propagandistic steps, taken at the State level, is to achieve a solution of the Karabakh problem in line with Azerbaijan's own scenario, and to attempt to erase from the memory of mankind the crime of genocide planned and committed against Armenians throughout the present century over the whole of the territory of Nagorny Karabakh, including its former capital, Shusha, as well as in Sumgait, Baku, Gyanja and other towns. Such propaganda also has an impact on the psychology of the Azerbaijani people, arousing unhealthy passions and unfounded hopes, and this in turn prevents the Azerbaijani leadership from pursuing flexible approaches in the negotiating process.

Armenia categorically condemns the destructive steps being taken by the Azerbaijani authorities, which are preventing the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Their position bears witness to the unrealistic intentions of the Azerbaijani side and calls in question the possibility of advancing the negotiating process.

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/113
S/1998/345
24 April 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 113 (b) of the preliminary list*
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 April 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the enclosed statement by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, His Excellency Mr. Slobodan Milosevic. I would be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

98-11293 (E) 240498

/...

ANNEX

Statement by President of Yugoslavia

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, made the following statement to the press after casting his ballot in today's referendum:

"This is a referendum of Serbia deciding on Serbia.

"Serbia is a State of all its citizens and their interests, the interests of the people, are the guideposts for all policies.

"I believe that we can settle all our current concerns. I believe that just, peaceful and humane solutions can be found for the concerns related to the life of different nations and people living together.

"If we did not believe in the possibility of a joint life of different nations and people, there would be no future for this entire region of the Balkans and southeastern Europe.

"I want to urge the Albanian leaders in Kosovo to start the talks with the representatives of the Serbian government as soon as possible.

"I want to tell them also that the government's approach is based on entirely good intentions.

"They should steer clear of the world's soul saviours, who have their own interests, rather than other people's interests, at heart.

"All of us living here should resolve our problems together because we have nowhere else to go but stay here on our land in our country.

"I believe in success in this respect as well, and I think that we can be optimistic."